

come to an end, she will continue to have an affect on us all.

HONORING JAMES A. WILLIAMS,
DIRECTOR, US-VISIT PROGRAM
AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of James (Jim) Williams, Director of the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program. After a strong tenure heading up US-VISIT, Jim has agreed to take on new challenges as Commissioner of the Federal Acquisition Service in the General Services Administration.

Jim is a selfless public servant, and has been an effective leader at the Department of Homeland Security. US-VISIT is a continuum of security measures that keep America's doors open and our Nation secure. US-VISIT begins overseas, at the U.S. consular offices issuing visas, where visitors' biometrics are collected and checked against a database of known criminals and suspected terrorists. When the visitor arrives at the port of entry, US-VISIT use the same biometrics to verify the person at the port is the same person who received the visa.

Jim understands that strong security measures, when done right, keep the Nation secure and open to legitimate travelers and tourists. He has had the vision and follow-through to oversee the installation of biometric entry procedures at 154 land border ports of entry and at airports and seaports with international arrivals. In turn, US-VISIT has processed nearly 60 million visitors to date, and denied entry to more than 1,100 criminals and immigration violators. At the same time, US-VISIT has not affected wait times at the border and in some instances has actually reduced inspection times. These accomplishments have been appropriately recognized by the ten members of the 9/11 Commission, who gave US-VISIT the highest grade on their final report card.

Thanks in large part to Jim and the team he has assembled, we now have 21st century tools to address our emerging security challenges. These tools are allowing the U.S. to deal more effectively with threats of terrorism, while keeping us competitive in the global economy. I know that Jim will be missed at US-VISIT. I have enjoyed working with him over the past 2 years, and would like to wish him well as he takes on new challenges at the General Services Administration.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ARIEL COHEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ariel Cohen for her remarkable recovery from pediatric stroke and the inspiration she has provided to other pediatric patients at the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH).

Ariel's life was profoundly changed on November 30, 2005 when she was struck with a

very rare, often initially misdiagnosed, and almost always seriously debilitating condition—pediatric stroke. Having initially experienced complete paralysis on the left side of her body, Ariel was truly fighting for her life. After eight days in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Ariel entered NRH. Upon her arrival Ariel quickly progressed in the Pediatric Unit at NRH to the point of being able to sit unassisted, and was soon capable of limited weight bearing on her left side.

The first two weeks at NRH saw a striking turn in Ariel's recovery as the strength and control in Ariel's leg, trunk and face progressed rapidly. The Cohen's credit NRH, and specifically the National Center for Children's Rehabilitation, for offering Ariel a well balanced approach to recovery, one that utilized the many disciplines of physical rehabilitation, counseling and aquatic therapy, the most technologically advanced equipment and processes, as well as the incorporation of peer support and an incredible amount of positive reinforcement. Within the first week, Ariel learned to really like and trust her therapists. She looked forward to her sessions, and she was always made to feel successful—no matter how small the gain.

For all that Ariel has received; she has given back—cooking her famous chocolate chip pancakes for the NRH team members who assisted in her rehab, using her own room decorations, surprising a fellow teen at NRH with a room makeover in a well-timed "sneak attack." She was an inspiration for all the pediatric patients at NRH—working incredibly hard with a spirit and determination to recover that has never waned. And while it is true that no 13-year-old girl wants to stand out, Ariel has taken in stride that by standing out, she offers much to other victims of pediatric stroke. From that day in November and Ariel's subsequent ongoing recovery springs a wealth of knowledge on the part of the medical community and, as Ariel hopes, educational resources for other families coping with the effects of pediatric stroke. Every day, Ariel pushes herself to recover more fully, always keenly aware of the gifts she received as a patient at NRH—the keys to own her recovery, mentally, emotionally and physically. As the signs and symptoms of her stroke fade by the day, a complete recovery of use and function now appears probable.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ariel Cohen. Her recovery from pediatric stroke is truly an inspiration and her efforts to assist in the recovery of her fellow patients are commendable. When I met Ariel, I couldn't help but be inspired by her determination and passion, which is why I am recognizing her today. She is truly a remarkable young woman, and I wish her the best in her continuing recovery.

INTRODUCTION ON THE IRAQ CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Ms. BARDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Iraq Congressional Oversight Enhancement Act. I serve on the Committee on Armed Services in the House and have

traveled to Iraq 8 times. These trips have allowed me to see Iraq first-hand, to meet with our fighting men and women and civilians serving there, and to learn from them the facts on the ground in that country. This legislation recognizes the complexity of the mission in Iraq and the need for enhanced Congressional oversight based upon comprehensive reporting from the administration.

This legislation is intended to enhance Congressional oversight of our operations in Iraq. This bill would not set a timetable to dictate the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. This bill would require that the President transmit periodically to Congress a consolidated, comprehensive report on the implementation of the National Strategy for Victory in Iraq. This bill would also provide the Congress the vital measures or other benchmarks for Iraq's political, security, and economic development and metrics by which progress towards these benchmarks can be more effectively measured and assessed.

This legislation would affirm Congress's support of our troops and civilian personnel in Iraq, and expresses its concern regarding the continued, deadly insurgent attacks against them. This legislation also would affirm Congress's support for the formation of a democratic, pluralistic, federal, and united Iraq, while urging elected Iraqi leaders to maintain and preserve a national unity government for the Iraqi people. Moreover, this bill recognizes the complex and interdependent nature of the challenges associated with the political, security, infrastructure, and economic development of Iraq, including governance capacity building at and between the various levels of government in Iraq.

The National Strategy for Victory in Iraq, presented by the President on November 30, 2005, is an informative document. The Strategy represents progress toward defining the terms for victory in Iraq. I believe, however, more progress on defining the current mission in Iraq and the benchmarks for achieving victory are necessary. This legislation would require the President to transmit to Congress a report to back-up the Strategy by identifying benchmarks and by using metrics.

It is true that two recent legislative initiatives have required reports along these lines. They are the section entitled "Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq" of House Conference Report 109-72 accompanying H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005, Public Law 109-13, and the U.S. Policy in Iraq Act, Section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Public Law 109-163.

These reports, provided to Congress by the Secretary of Defense, contain useful information. But, when taken together, the reports are not sufficient for Congress to fully exercise its oversight responsibilities pertaining to this war. These reports also do not provide the American people a clear and full picture of what the United States seeks to achieve in Iraq, what the United States Armed Forces and civilian personnel are doing to achieve those objectives, and where we are in the process of achieving them—at the various levels of government within Iraq.

Our service in this body is never more consequential than it is when our troops are in harm's way. Debate regarding issues of war and peace deserves sober reflection, reasoned thinking, critical focus, and balanced